

OCA #60-321

box 1

JASC folder

1 April 1954

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Appearance of the DCI before a Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

1. On 22 March the DCI appeared before a special subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss CIA activities, with particular emphasis on the facts set forth by Senator Mansfield in his speech to the Senate on 10 March 1954, and to give his views on the Mansfield resolution to establish a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence. The Subcommittee consisted of Senators Saltonstall, Bridges, Flanders, Russell and Byrd. However, due to a sudden illness, Senator Bridges could not be present.

2. Chairman Saltonstall opened the meeting by inquiring whether it would be agreeable to have Mr. Philip Allen and Mr. William Darden of the Committee staff present, and this was acceded to. In addition, the testimony was recorded by stenographer Benjamin Ferschein with instructions that the notes not be transcribed but retained in the Committee safe. The Chairman desired this transcript in case it would become necessary to defend CIA on the Floor of the Senate.

3. Chairman Saltonstall then read a short prepared statement for the record, of which two points were of importance. First, he stated that under the standing rules of the Senate CIA and its activities came within the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee; and, secondly, that the DCI had approached him very early in the session to request an opportunity to bring the Chairman and a designated subcommittee up to date on CIA activities, but that for one reason or another the Chairman had had to postpone such a meeting. Senator Saltonstall then went on to state that he had written a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration before which S. Con. Res. 69 was pending, and had stated that if the Committee planned to consider this resolution Senator Saltonstall desired to be heard in opposition. Furthermore, he stated that Senator Russell had agreed either to appear in opposition or to write a letter to that effect if the Rules Committee considered S. Con. Res. 69.

See H. document
SAC contingent
record

See Salt + Russell
to oppose
Mansfield

4. During the hearing it was noted that S. Con. Res. 42, Senator Mansfield's prior resolution to establish a Joint Committee, was presently before the Armed Services Committee (probably through mis-referral) and Senator Byrd indicated that the Committee should retain jurisdiction over that resolution and take no further action on it.

*SASC to
kill earlier
resol.*

5. The DCI gave a lengthy presentation on current CIA activities and a refutation or explanation of the charges brought out by Senator Mansfield in his speech to the Senate on 10 March. The Subcommittee also directed questions to the DCI on certain problems raised by Senator Mansfield.

*DCI
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refut of
Mansf.*

6. Upon the conclusion of the presentation, it was the unanimous consensus of those present that the Armed Services Committee should retain jurisdiction over CIA matters and that a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence would be vigorously opposed by them. In particular, the Senators were extremely concerned by the security implications which would arise out of such a Committee. Senator Russell was extremely forceful on the question of Congressional leaks.

*SASC
vigorously
opposed
it Center*

7. In connection with the security problems of CIA, the Committee expressed grave concern over the extent of disclosures of CIA activities which would have to be made to the House Appropriations Committee, and urged that on the Senate side at least as small a group as possible be designated to handle the CIA appropriation.

*Start for
controlling
House consent
of CIA spending*

8. The attitude of the entire Subcommittee was such as to indicate the strongest possible bi-partisan support for CIA and the protection of its security, and gave some indication that if CIA were again attacked it would interject itself more forcefully in our defense either by statements on the Floor or by Executive Session hearing on the substance of the attacks.

*some
attitude
of SASC*

Walter L. Fforzheimer
Legislative Counsel

OGC:WLP/blc (1 Apr. 54)

1 - DCI
1 - IG
1 - WLP